

App. No. 10/090,911
Atty. Docket No. 8449M
Amdt. dated October 19, 2005
Reply to Office Action of October 17, 2005
Customer No. 27752

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REMARKS

Claim Status

Claims 24, 30 – 57 are now pending. Claims 24 and 57 have been amended.

CLAIM REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103 OVER WO 99/57259 IN VIEW OF US 3,88,391

The claims are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over WO 99/57259 ("WO '259") in view of Merz, US 3,88,391. Applicant amends the claims to overcome the rejection.

Applicant amends claim 24 to a manual rinse process comprising the step of rinsing manually the fabric to overcome the rejection. A similar amendment was made to claim 57. The Office Action, in the relevant part, states at page 3, line 11 *et seq.*, that Merz discloses a dispenser for use in automatic washing machines which is actuated in the first spin following the wash cycle. The dispenser opens during this spin and dispenses the contents during the first rinse (abstract). The Office Action continues by stating that it would have been obvious at the time of the invention to use the composition of the WO reference in the first rinse bath of a washing machine, because Merz discloses a device for dispensing liquid fabric softener in the first rinse cycle. Applicant has now amended claims such that the method is directed to a manual rinse process verses an automated one, i.e., a method utilizing a washing machine. Applicant submits that device of Merz would be inoperable in a manual rinse process.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that rejection is now overcome and requests allowance of the pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,
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